

Fifty Thousand Dollars

For a Coffin....

The story of this strange freak of American extravagance, and a picture, in next Sunday's Journal.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

How It Feels

To Be Buried Alive....

A young man who has had this experience writes about it for the great Sunday Journal.

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LAWRENCE.



FISH.



KRUM.



PLATT.



BELDEN.

THE REPUBLICAN LEADERS AT SARATOGA.

PLATT FOR GOVERNOR BY ACCLAMATION.

The Republican Leader Still Not a Candidate, but He Wears a Crown of Lightning Rods.

"I Do Not Want to Be Governor, but to Be Just a Plain, Simple Boss."—
T. C. Platt.

Woodruff, of Brooklyn, Is Picked Out by the Experts as the Second Man on the Ticket, but There May Be a Squabble for the Place.

THE PROBABLE REPUBLICAN STATE SLATE.

FOR GOVERNOR: THOMAS C. PLATT, OF OWEGO.
FOR LIET.-GOVERNOR: TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF, OF BROOKLYN,
OR FRANK WITHERBEE, OF ESSEX COUNTY.

By Murat Halstead.

Saratoga, N. Y., Aug. 24.—My conclusion is that Platt plainly foresees his nomination and accepts the responsibility.

The Republican caucus this afternoon was decisive. It was held at the Worden House, Senator Ellsworth presiding. Eighteen Platt leaders were present, representing 550 votes, and determined with unanimity that Platt should be nominated, and almost with equal positiveness that Timothy L. Woodruff, of Brooklyn, was to have second place. This seems to settle it.

It is hardly regarded as practicable that Platt will refuse. Those not favorable to this nomination console themselves by saying: "The candidate must be a Platt man, therefore let us have Platt himself."

A strong story is going that Saxton may run with Platt, but Woodruff's friends are confident of winning.

Reports are running that Platt is shaky as to acceptance. But his precise position to-night is that he will not take any part between candidates, and will not say to-night what he will do. He has not said the decisive word to anybody.

One very near Platt says he is reluctantly yielding to the conclusion that he must make the nomination, but at intervals indulges in paroxysms of kicking, and that the kicks grow weaker.

Mr. Platt has had a serious and eventful political life, and has on his hands now the most serious crisis of his career. He is disposed to "touch up" what he says of it with humor, and when I pressed him to-day for a definition of his position he made a remark that should be preserved.

"I do not want to be a Governor," he said. "but to be just a plain, simple boss."

He has said to Belden that he did not want to take on his shoulders the burden of the office of Governor, and doubted his strength to bear up under its labors and responsibilities. The reply of Belden and others, who find in his candidacy the solution of the problem of the convention, is that Platt is so perfectly informed upon and so thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the office that the administration of them would be easy.

The impression is strong that Platt will have to take the nomination under his own code of personal and political relations. Five hundred men have been sitting around this afternoon impatient to know what to do. All the hopeful candidates defer to Platt, and all seem ready to unite on him if he will consent to run. **B 79**

Platt's perplexity is that his friends are in such overwhelming force they are in conflict with each other. This is the first experience of the kind Platt has had. He cannot escape some share of responsibility for any nomination that is made unless he takes the place himself.

The feeling to-night is that Platt must be the nominee, but he may have a surprise in store for his friends. He is powerful enough to nominate one whose name has not appeared as a candidate before this convention, and as those who know him know he likes and admires J. Sloat Fassett, there is something more than a possibility he may do that.

Saratoga, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Mr. Platt yesterday and to-day pondered over the question, "Shall I permit myself to be nominated for Governor by a grateful party?"

Every politician in Saratoga to-night believes Mr. Platt's answer will be in the affirmative, but his positive and official reply has not been made, and Messrs Aldridge, Fish and Baxter are nervous and fidgety over their own impotency at this crisis. If Mr. Platt accepts the nomination all the preliminary moves and starts which are driving good Republicans to despair and the refreshment rooms will appear in a particularly humorous aspect to the disinterested spectators.

Mr. Platt said twenty times yesterday

that at 9 o'clock to-night Mr. Platt would give a definite reply to his importunate friends.

At 9 o'clock promptly the committee called, and Mr. Platt explained that he had arrived at no decision, but that he would give an absolute answer to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. There are but two deductions to be made from these developments. Either Mr. Platt is in a quandary and requires all this time for thought, or the whole performance is a carefully arranged programme calculated to give the impression that Mr. Platt has been seized by a tidal wave and landed into a position against his will, and into one which he would never seek.

There is strong evidence tending to prove that the latter theory is correct. There are two score politicians here to-night who would take affidavits, if they thought there would be no unpleasant consequences to themselves, that the scheme now unfolding has been cooking for six weeks. Here, however, are the facts:

Thought Platt Was Joking.

About six weeks ago Mr. Platt had a long talk with some gentlemen who represented at least four of the candidates. Each candidate and his qualifications were discussed at length. Mr. Platt took but a passive part in the argument, merely nodding approval when the excellencies of the various aspirants were touched upon. Finally one of the persons present said: "Well, what do you think, Mr. Platt?"

Mr. Platt smiled pleasantly and replied: "Gentlemen, what shall I say? Any one of these candidates is deserving of the support of the party. Each in his own way has worked hard for it. It is difficult to choose when so much excellent material is at hand. Now, suppose I should be willing to take this nomination?" Mr. Platt ended with an interrogative inflection and looked pleasantly at the gentlemen present.

They were for a moment confused, but when Mr. Platt chuckled they all laughingly replied: "Oh, well, of course, Mr. Platt, if you consent to take the place we should all retire with alacrity." There that incident ended, but the gentlemen present now recall it and realize that Mr. Platt performed an act which one described to-day as "stringing" them. Within the last six days every politician of any prominence in the State has received a circular headed in black type: "Thomas C. Platt." The body of the circular was an editorial reprinted from the Binghamton Republican highly extolling Mr. Platt for his share in drawing and putting through the Baines bill. A day later the same Republicans received a circular headed: "Who Cares?" This was an article explaining how trivial was the opposition to the Platt rule throughout the State and how unimportant were the defections of Warner Miller and John E. Millholland.

Tiogon's Friends Not Checked.

"I got these circulars, looked them over, and wondered what they were being sent out for, and threw them in the waste basket," said a Republican legislator to-day, "but I now see how they apply to this situation." The further argument urged against the theory that the Platt boom is a spontaneous tribute to a beloved leader is to be found in the fact that some of Mr. Platt's most faithful friends started the movement, that they could have been silenced yesterday or to-day, that they were not silenced, and that Mr. Platt has by his manner encouraged the movement, although his words were of a character to discourage. As a result, while everybody believes Mr. Platt will take the nomination, everybody realizes that he resembles still waters in a certain and well-known way, and no man is willing to wager on the result.

Everybody believes Mr. Platt will take the nomination, yet nobody would be much surprised if he did not. There are irritation and anger in the breast of nearly all regular organization men to-night, Messrs. Aldridge and Fish are disgusted. They can do nothing until Mr. Platt speaks, and they think he is needlessly placing them in an absurd position. Many of Mr. Platt's well wishers, who have protested against his acceptance of the nomination because they fear he will be cut at the polls and the organization will suffer, are morose and gloomy.

The only persons really contented are the candidates for the United States Senate and their friends and the avowed enemies of Platt. Each of the Senatorial candidates feels that with Mr. Platt out of the way there is chance for one of the field to slip in, while the anti-Platt men say that with Mr. Platt either defeated or victorious they will cease to be the leader of the State machine. The early part of to-day was devoted by Mr. Platt to receiving delegations of his friends, who urged him to take the nomination. Frederick S. Gibbs, Edward Lauterbach, Lemuel E. Quigg, B. J. O'Neil, J. Sloat Fassett, W. L. Proctor, J. F. Parkin, and Cornelius Van Cort and a horde of the smaller fry begged Mr. Platt to sacrifice himself on the altar of public and party duty.



MRS. THOMAS C. PLATT.

Lou Payne, William Barnes, Jr., of Albany; "Jake" Worth, "Abe" Gruber and others to the number of a score assured him that to run as a gubernatorial candidate would be unwise; that the support of Miller, Belden, Millholland and the Erie County contingent could not be counted upon; that while they might affect friendship now they would take the warpath as soon as the nomination was made. Mr. Platt said he was not a candidate, and did not care for the nomination, and his friends sighed, fled out of the room and said to one another in waiting: "Guess he'll take it."

At 4 o'clock in the Worden Hotel a conference was held. Mr. Platt was not present, and the fact was regarded as significant evidence that Mr. Platt was permitting his friends to take some action which delicacy forbade Mr. Platt to witness. This conference was stormy. "Jake" Worth and William Barnes said that Mr. Platt's nomination would prove injudicious in the extreme. They reflected severely upon the friends who have asked him to stand, and intimated that some selfish purpose instigated the request. They drew a picture in which Mr. Platt was depicted as a patriot walking along the path of duty, oblivious to danger, with but one purpose in view, the welfare of the commonwealth, while in wait were ambushed all the enemies Mr. Platt has accumulated during sixteen years in public life. Messrs. Worth and Barnes sneered at the promised support of James J. Belden and said that Millholland and Matthews had served notice they would raise Cain if no one else did. Messrs. Lauterbach and Quigg took opposite ground. Others followed suit, and in the end the steering committee gravely decided that Mr. Platt should be asked to accept the nomination.

In the meantime the ex-Senator saw Frank H. Platt, arrived from New York. He had a message from Mrs. Platt, who advised against her husband's acceptance of the honor. Young Mr. Platt strongly opposed it, too. The committee then appeared and submitted its proposition to Mr. Platt. The latter was much touched. He said he appreciated the honor his friends wished him to accept, but he could not give a hasty answer to such an important question, but would be forced to take the matter under advisement. He would give an answer at 9 o'clock in the evening.

The crowd waited on the half-mile of plaza that lines the park of the United States Hotel, Aldridge, Fish and Wadsworth had their scouts posted. Messrs. Gibbs, Hiseock, O'Dell, Payn, Sutherland and Fassett appeared. The crowd moved forward nervously. The deputation looked unimpressed.

"What is it, Fred?" whispered a politician, edging toward Mr. Gibbs.

"He's going to take it," replied Mr. Gibbs, looking straight ahead and puffing hard at his cigar, the words escaping through his closed teeth. In an instant the

SAXTON WOULD SUPPORT PLATT.

Lieutenant-Governor Declares He Would Gladly Stand by Anything the Coming Convention Might See Fit to Do.

To W. R. Hearst, New York Journal:

Saratoga, N. Y., Aug. 24.

I have always been, and am a Republican. Whatever the convention in its wisdom may see fit to do I shall heartily indorse. Whatever ticket it may nominate I shall gladly support.

CHARLES T. SAXTON, Lieutenant-Governor.

CONGRESSMAN WADSWORTH LIKES IT.

Mr. Platt's Nomination, He Says, Would Be Judicious and Would Meet with the Approval of the Entire Republican Party.

To W. R. Hearst, New York Journal:

The nomination of Mr. Platt would be judicious, and in my jud-



Mrs. Platt and Her Drawing Room.

The wife of the ex-Senator has been his helpmate in politics as well as domestic affairs, and is admired by her husband's friends for her devotion to his cause. In the summer time Mr. and Mrs. Platt hold receptions and meet all the big and little guns of politics at the seashore. The rest of the year they reside at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in order to keep in touch with the ex-Senator's powerful political machine, which has given him the control of to-day's convention at Saratoga.

word ran around the piazza like a prairie fire. Into the office, down the street, into the Worden, the words flew. "The old man's going to take it." All the candidates were grim, some were quietly profane, but everybody accepted the verdict. Mr. Aldridge was the only doubter, openly.

At 9 o'clock to-night the committee again called and Mr. Platt asked that he be allowed to postpone his answer until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. The committee consensually granted this request.

McKinley League's Attack.

The McKinley League, arriving at half-past 2 this afternoon, and headed by a brass band, marched into the park of the United States Hotel, bearing banners containing uncompromising references to Mr. Platt. Some of the legends were excerpts from the official utterance of the Committee of Twenty-five, which published a report alleging that the Platt machine in New York County padded the rolls flagrantly. Other of the inflammatory statements originated with Mr. Millholland's literary expert. Here are some of the quotations from the anti-Platt report:

"How Platt carried New York County. The padding of the enrollment amounts to considerably more than 25,000 names out of a total of 77,000."

"Hand in glove with Tammany. The wholesale padding of the Republican rolls and the debauching of the primaries re-

ment would meet with the approval of the entire party. Personally I shall exert my best efforts in behalf of the ticket, and I am confident it will be elected by a rousing majority.

JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Congressman from New York State.

BURLEIGH APPROVES OF PLATT.

In His Opinion the Republican Leader Would Make an Excellent Governor and Would Act in the Interest of All the People.

To W. R. Hearst, New York Journal:

Saratoga, N. Y., Aug. 24.

It has been evident for several days that Mr. Platt would completely control this convention. Any one who might have been nominated would have been Platt's lieutenant. The two leading candidates have been George W. Aldridge and Hamilton Fish.

Mr. Platt's superiority as a candidate over either of these two gentlemen is obvious to any one. In my judgment Mr. Platt will make an excellent Governor. I am convinced that his main object will be to make a creditable record, and to do that he will have to be the Governor of all the people, of the entire Republican party, not of a faction only. As to Warner Miller's position, I can but call attention to his attitude in 1882, when he supported Charles G. Folger and stumped the State for him, although Mr. Miller's candidate was Alonzo B. Cornell. I am confident Mr. Platt will be elected by a big majority.

HENRY G. BURLEIGH, ex-Congressman from New York State.

Continued on Second Page.